Past Pursuits

A Newsletter of the Special Collections Division of the Akron-Summit County Public Library

Volume 5, Number 4 **Winter 2006**

African American Genealogy Research with Tony Burroughs

By Iris Bolar, Librarian

Tony Burroughs, author of *Black Roots: a Beginner's Guide to Tracing the African American Family Tree*, will present a program on methods and resources for African American genealogy research on Saturday, March 31, 2007, from 9:30 am to 4 pm. The day's schedule is divided into four sessions, each covering a different topic in African American genealogy research:

Session One - Black Roots: Tracing the Family Tree,
Session Two - Researching Cemeteries, Funeral Homes, & Vital Records,
Session Three - Locating Obituaries for African Americans,
Session Four - Researching Census Records.

Tony Burroughs lectures throughout the United States and Canada on various aspects of genealogy. He has appeared as an expert in the PBS series *Ancestors* and *African America Lives*, in the Discovery Channel documentary, *The Real Family of Jesus*, and in network news broadcasts. His expertise has been sought in articles for *Time Magazine, The New York Times, Ebony Magazine,* and other publications. **continued on page 6**.

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Digital Exhibits

By Joanne O'Dell, Librarian

The Special Collections Division of the Akron-Summit County Public Library is launching two digital exhibits in 2007. The Library History exhibit and the Tallmadge History exhibit celebrate our shared past and capitalize on current technology to provide access to these unique documents and photographs.

The Tallmadge History exhibit was planned to coincide with the Tallmadge Bicentennial celebrations in 2007. The exhibit provides insight into the development of Tallmadge, from its origins as a transplanted New England village to the thriving city that it is today. The items in the exhibit are drawn from the Frank E. Lawrence Collection, which is housed at the Tallmadge Branch Library. There are well over 100 items in this digital exhibit representing Tallmadge over the last two hundred years. It includes pages from diaries and photographs of people and places prominent in the history of Tallmadge. Tallmadge's history is connected with those of surrounding communities, so you'll see mention of the Hudson sleigh ride, visiting the Big Falls in Cuyahoga Falls, or shopping in Akron.

Several Tallmadge residents played important roles in the creation of the exhibit. The selection committee of Fred Wybenga, Jim Mackey, and Judy Davis reviewed the hundreds of photographs in the Lawrence Collection. Their recommendations comprise the bulk of the exhibit. Judy Davis researched many of the images and created descriptions for them. Without these wonderful volunteers, this exhibit would not have been possible.

The Library History exhibit is drawn from the ASCPL History Collection. It documents the important role that a free public library has played in the development of our community.

Although the official launch is in 2007, you are invited to take a sneak peek at the pages now. Simply click on the following link for a quick look at our past: http://www.akronlibrary.org/digital-lib/.

The Powder Patch

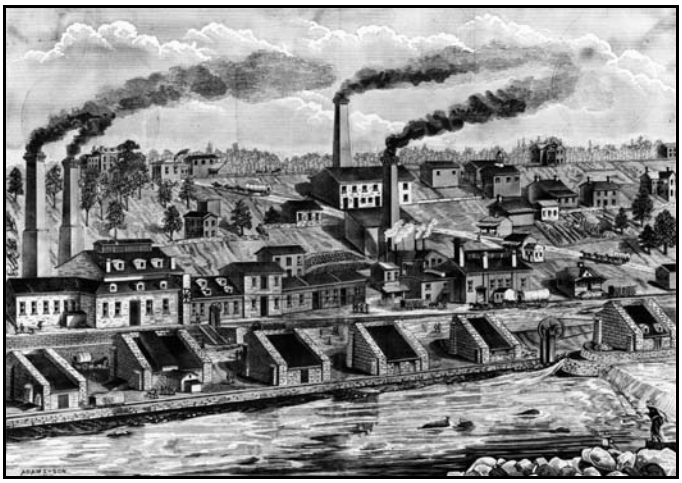
By Michael Elliott, Public Service Assistant

Back in the early days of Summit County, before the rubber industry became king, the Akron area was known for several fledgling industries. These included the production of wool, kitchen matches, potteries, the milling of flour and cereals, the mining of clay, and the manufacture of gunpowder. Gunpowder? Yes, for more than three decades in the mid 1800s Akron was a major regional producer of black powder for Ohio and sizable portions of surrounding states.

In 1832, the five Austin brothers, Daniel, Alvin, Cyrus, Lorenzo, and Linus, left their home in Wilmington, Vermont with the aim of locating a site in the (then) western states to establish a powder mill. Before the end of that year, they had settled at Kansas City, Missouri, where the ingredients for the production of black powder and ample real estate were readily available. But they were unable to turn a profit because that section of the country was still only sparsely populated. Discouraged, but undaunted, they returned east looking for an equally suitable site. Differing reasons drew them to Akron, where in 1833, they established one of the first powder mills in the state of Ohio. Factors that contributed to the Austin brothers choosing the Akron area for their powder mill were the availability of ideal real estate along the Little Cuyahoga River (water power was necessary to turn the giant milling wheels), accessibility to the newly opened Ohio & Erie Canal, and a ready market for their product in the thriving coal mining industry in Tallmadge, Springfield, and Coventry Townships. Just two years later, in 1835, and continuing through 1840, construction of the Pennsylvania & Ohio Canal began. The considerable amount of blasting powder used in the construction of the P & O Canal provided another lucrative market for the company.

The site of the works, which immediately became known as the "powder patch," is now the area southwest of the intersection of N. Arlington and North Streets and was adjacent to the then flourishing village of Old Forge. It is known that the Austin brothers constructed at least half a dozen

mills at small intervals along the river with the intention of minimizing damage to the entire complex should one individual mill explode. Although on a much smaller scale, the operation was likely similar to the setup of the buildings preserved at the Hagley Museum in Delaware with the exception that the Akron buildings were almost exclusively constructed with wood as opposed to native stone.



Gunpowder works founded by E. I. du Pont in 1802
Image courtesy of the Hagley Museum and Library

The process by which the powder was produced involved the incorporation of three essential ingredients in measured proportions: potassium nitrate, sulfur, and charcoal. The materials were first mixed by placing them into large revolving cylinders along with several hundred brass or copper balls weighing upwards of one ounce each. (After one particularly heavy explosion in 1844, it was announced in the newspaper that over 600 pounds of copper balls had been in the mixing cylinder when it detonated. The paper implored the local populace from keeping them as souvenirs, but to return those that were found to the rightful owners.) After the grinding and mixing processes were complete, the powder was pressed, sized, and glazed, all the while hopefully being kept sufficiently damp. The final step in the processing was to place the powder in a drying room where it was kept for a specified time before being packed into kegs for storage and shipment. The entire process from start to finish was dangerous work, and everybody knew it. On July 4, 1849, a description of the operation and grounds was printed in the *Summit County Beacon*. The newspaper noted that "Visits to the mills are not encouraged, and when made, one does not feel disposed to linger long in the vicinity of a ton of powder revolving between metal balls in cylinders." With a testimonial like this and the inherent danger of this line of work, it is a wonder that anyone at all would seek employment with the company. But come to work they did, often with tragic consequences, as the mills and other outbuildings on the property exploded with frightening regularity over the years.

Probably due to the size of the operation, a comparatively small number of persons lost their lives at the Austin works when compared to other larger producers in the East. But when an accident did occur, the results could be horrific in the extreme or even tragically absurd. Consider poor George Knuesman who, along with three others, was reapplying felt to a dismantled mill wheel when a spark, probably caused by the drawing of a nail from the wooden wheel, caused the residue of powder on the wheel to ignite. Everyone present had their eyebrows and whiskers singed while Knuesman and another man named Breen had their clothing flash into flame. Breen saved his life by jumping into the nearby Little Cuyahoga River but Knuesman, in his panic and delirium, ran back into the powder mill triggering an immense explosion and his abrupt demise.

The largest recorded explosion occurred on February 18, 1859, when an estimated six tons of finished powder obliterated the drying house, which had mysteriously caught fire. The shock wave from this blast shattered windows and threw open doors in the town of Middlebury more than a mile to the southeast and on Howard Street in Akron, a similar distance to the west. Amazingly, no one was hurt due to the fact that an alarm was raised and those who heard the warning made all haste to put as much distance as possible between themselves and the imminent catastrophe. In an incredible stroke of fortune, a laborer named Thomas Luce escaped injury of any kind, even though he was less than 100 yards from the center of the explosion and was wheeling two large kegs of finished powder in a

wheelbarrow across the common. Interviewed by a newspaper correspondent less than half an hour after the explosion, he allowed that "his head ached some" but that he was otherwise unscathed. Notwithstanding this close call, he remained in the employ of the Austins until his luck finally ran out; he was killed in a tremendous blast a little more than four years later.

Despite experiencing only one fatality in its first 29 years of operation, misfortune caught up with Austin during the Civil War years and immediately afterwards, when no less than seven additional fatalities occurred. The reasons for this are unknown but possibly had to do with aging machinery and the increasing demand due to the war. A sad footnote to two of these deaths was that both men had been in the Civil War and had escaped injury or harm of any sort during their time in the service.

By 1867, the Austin brothers had accrued the means to buy out the operation and property of the Cleveland Powder Works in Cuyahoga County. Wishing to expand their business, this acquisition provided the Austins with a larger site than was possible in Akron. Following yet another devastating explosion in early May of 1868, an announcement was made that production in Akron would be discontinued, and the entire operation relocated to Cleveland. This move was apparently completed over the course of the next few months with the now-vacated site in Akron going unused for a few years.

On July 17, 1875, the site was acquired by the Summit County Agricultural Society and later became known as Fountain Park and used as the Summit County fairgrounds for decades. For many years, there was regularly-scheduled horse racing there until the construction of Ascot Park in Northampton Twp. Today, the general area is now known as "Old Forge Field" and was the home football field for Central High School in the 1950s and 60s and the practice facility for the recently closed Central-Hower High School. It's somehow fitting that a location that had seen and caused so much destruction is now used for leisurely pursuits.

Akron's African American Heritage

By Iris Bolar, Librarian

African Americans have been recorded as residents in the city of Akron since the early 1830s, though their presence in the area may very well have been as early as the founding of the city in 1825. The migration of African Americans to the Akron area was linked to the climate of racial attitudes and the economic opportunities available to them.

Ohio was an antislavery state, but there were Ohioans who strongly opposed the presence of African Americans in Ohio. In 1804 and 1807, Ohio enacted its "Black Laws," to inhibit the immigration of African Americans to Ohio by requiring them to register in the county courts with proof of their freedom and to post bond assuring good behavior. Though free, African Americans in Ohio could not vote or testify against white people. These laws were repealed in 1849, but some counties were slow to conform.

Summit County was active in the antislavery movement. New Englanders who settled in the Western Reserve brought with them their humanitarian views. Whites and free blacks worked to end slavery and served as agents on the Underground Railroad. Local residents, especially those in the town of Hudson, provided safe houses for slaves on the route to Canada. For a time, the abolitionist John Brown resided in Akron and developed connections with other area antislavery advocates. It is estimated that 40,000 escaped slaves moved through Ohio's 3,000 miles of routes on the Underground Railroad.

The 1830 census for Portage Township (of which Akron was a part at that time) shows that the African American population was as small as five people. These early census records also show that most Akron African Americans were born in Ohio and Virginia with Pennsylvania, New York, and Maryland having smaller emigrants. The 1850 enactment of the Fugitive Slave Law further threatened the freedom of those fleeing from bondage. Even free African Americans were

threatened with enslavement due to unscrupulous practices under the law. That is why it was also referred to as the "Kidnap Law." As a result, between 1850 and 1860, Akron's African American population dropped from 74 to 24 as free people of color and escaped slaves sought refuge in Canada.

The 1870 census, the first after the Civil War ended, shows an increase of the African American population in Akron to 195. Their occupations included a tailor, an engineer, barbers, cooks, store clerks, domestics, gardeners, brick masons, and day laborers. Although most are still natives of Ohio and Virginia, we begin to see North Carolina, Kentucky, and other southern states mentioned as birthplaces. According to the Akron city directories, the majority of African Americans resided in the area of North Broadway, North High, and Furnace Streets -- within close proximity to both the Ohio & Erie and Pennsylvania & Ohio Canals.

In the 1890s and early 1900s, African American Akronites began establishing organizations. Some of these organizations were the Union League Club, Colored Masons, and Colored Voters' Secret Society. Benevolent societies included a chapter of Daughters of Jerusalem and the Grand United Order of True Reformers. In 1866, Zion Chapel (currently Wesley Temple A.M.E. Zion Church) became Akron's first African American congregation.

The biggest jump in Akron's African American population occurred between 1910 and 1920, when this population soared from 657 to 5,580. This period in African American history is referred to as "The Great Migration." Northern employers' needs for laborers during World War I, the desire to escape intense racial persecution, and the devastation of southern crops from a boll weevil invasion were factors that lured African Americans to the northern cities. These migrants were met with rising racial intolerance and segregation.

The establishment of African American businesses, churches, and organizations increased to meet the population's needs. Howard Street became the center of African American culture in the city up through the 1960s and was referred to as "Akron's Harlem." Doctors' offices, barbershops, hotels, restaurants, and other businesses on Howard Street catered to Akron's African American Community. The Green Turtle, Cosmopolitan Club, High Hat, and Silver Leaf were jazz clubs that once operated on Howard Street. Entertainers such as Ella Fitzgerald, Duke Ellington, and Cab Calloway performed there.

Today, the African American population in Akron reaches all parts of the city, but their numbers are significantly represented in West Akron. Events such as the West Akron Community Day Parade and Festival and the Juneteenth Festival in Hawkins Park are annual traditions that celebrate African American Heritage. *The Reporter*, the local African American newspaper, provides a link to news, businesses, and social gatherings for the community.

Genealogical research for the majority of African Americans is a challenge given the status of ancestors as property in the antebellum south. Special Collections has created the research guide *African American Research* to help you get started in African American Genealogy.

On Line Records Update

The Pennsylvania State Archives hosts the Archives Records Information Access System (ARIAS) to make available digital copies of card files for many Pennsylvania military records (1775-1921). For more information, please see http://www.digitalarchives.state.pa.us/.

Maryland State Archives Vital Records Indexing Project provides digital access to copies of the death records index cards. Death record index cards from the Maryland Board of Health (1898-1910) and the Maryland Department of Health Bureau of Vital Statistics (1910-1951) are available. Some Indexes for Baltimore City are also available. For more information, see http://mdvitalrec.net/cfm/index.cfm. Additionally, through the Archives of Maryland Online, you have access to City Directories, early newspapers, probate and land records, and many other records. For more information, see http://www.mdarchives.state.md.us/megafile/msa/speccol/sc2900/sc2908/html/index.html.

On Line Obituary Index

Obituary indexes to the *Akron Beacon Journal* for the years 1990, 1992, 1993, and 2000-2005 are now available from the Special Collections web site at http://www.akronlibrary.org/internetresources/sc/obits.html. The indexes are in Portable Document Format (PDF) and require the use of the free Adobe Acrobat Reader. Additional years will come on line as they are completed.

Special Collections also has an obituary index to the *Akron Beacon Journal* from 1841-present and a subject index for 1841-1939 (microfilm and print) and 1985-present (database). To request a copy of an obituary, contact Special Collections.

Another *Akron Beacon Journal* Resource

Before the days of the internet and on line newspaper databases, librarians spent a good deal of their time creating special indexes and files of "hard-to-find" information. For many years, the Information Division of the Akron-Summit County Public Library maintained an index to articles that appeared in the *Beacon Magazine, Parade Magazine*, Lifestyle section, and the Thursday weekend section of the *Akron Beacon Journal.* Each day, librarians in the division diligently extracted and indexed articles from these publications and newspaper sections for a card file that was maintained in the Information Division.

This valuable resource, recently moved to the Special Collections Division, provides access to information published during a range of years for which no indexes, on line or print, are available. Are you looking for that article from the 1980s about "having your colors done?" How about Bill Snyder's article on how to grow celery? A check of this card file will provide the headline and date for these otherwise hard-to-find gems. Indexed years include: *Parade Magazine,* 1979-1999; Lifestyle and *Beacon Magazine*, 1979-1988.

Tony Burroughs (continued)

Mr. Burroughs is on the boards of the Friends of Genealogy at Newberry Library and the African American Military Museum in Chicago. In past years, he has served on the boards of the Association of Professional Genealogists, the New England Historic Genealogical Society, the Federation of Genealogical Societies, and the Illinois Underground Railroad Association and has served as president of the Afro-American Genealogical and Historical Society of Chicago, Inc. In addition to his writing, appearances, and service in genealogical organizations, Mr. Burroughs teaches genealogy at Chicago State University. In recognition of his service, he was awarded the Distinguished Service Award by the National Genealogical Society and the Dallas Genealogical Society.

Sponsored by the Special Collections Division, the program will be held in the Auditorium of the Main Library. It begins at 9:30 am and is free and open to the public. There will be an hour set aside for you to have lunch on your own. For more information or to sign up, please contact Special Collections at 330.643.9030 or speccollections@akronlibrary.org.

Summit County Naturalization Records Now Available On Line!

The Naturalization Records for Summit County from 1850 to 1991 are now available on line. These records can provide details not found anywhere else. Many list the name of an applicant's home town in the country of their birth or provide a physical description. In some cases, the names of sponsors can provide clues to a distant family connection.

Go to: www.cpclerk.co.summit.oh.us (the Summit County Clerk of Courts website) and you will see a link to the Naturalization records. These include digital images of: Certificates of Arrival, Petitions for Citizenship, Declarations of Intent, and Oaths of Allegiance.

From the UA Press

Akron's Better Half: Women's Clubs and the Humanization of a City, (1825-1925) by Kathleen Endres, Distinguished Professor of Communications at the University of Akron, is now available. This is the story of how the women of Akron, working through their clubs and organizations, created the social framework to support Akron's amazing growth during the 19th and early 20th centuries. For more information on this fascinating book, visit http://www3.uakron.edu/uapress/endres.html.

More Genealogy Classes

You'll be glad to know that Special Collections will continue to offer our *Getting Started in Family History* orientations. If you know anyone who is interested in genealogy but just hasn't had the time to get started, please suggest our orientation. We can help them begin by showing them the many sources available in Special Collections. Each session covers the same information, and the dates and times are listed below.

Saturday, January 13, 10 - 11:30 am.
Tuesday, February 13, 6:30 - 8 pm.
Saturday, March 10, 10 - 11:30 am.
Tuesday, April 10, 6:30 - 8 pm.

Another brand new class for genealogy researchers that we're offering is *Finding Your Family in the US Census*. Census records are some of the most valuable resources in genealogy research, and we'd like to show you how to make the most of them. So be sure to join us and learn more about this rich resource. Each session addresses the same information, and the dates and times are listed below.

Saturday, January 27, 10 - 11:30 am.
Tuesday, February 27, 6:30 - 8 pm.
Saturday, March 24, 10 - 11:30 am.
Tuesday, April 24, 6:30 - 8 pm.

For more information or to sign up, contact Special Collections at 330.643.9030 or speccollections@akronlibrary.org.

On Exhibit

Reflections on Glass: the Photographs of Willard Penfield Seiberling

Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens and the Akron-Summit County Public Library present *Reflections on Glass: The Photography of Willard Penfield Seiberling*. This exhibit features photographs taken between 1910 and 1930 by Willard Penfield Seiberling and includes images from the collection of Stan Hywet, as well as photography equipment of the period courtesy of the Summit County Historical Society. It may be viewed on the second floor of Main Library from November through January.

Willard Penfield Seiberling (1892-1981) was the second son of Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company founder F.A. Seiberling and his wife Gertrude. While a student at Princeton, Willard honed what would be a lifelong interest in photography, becoming editor of the *Princeton Pictorial Review*. He graduated in 1915, just as the construction of Stan Hywet was being completed. When the plans for Stan Hywet were being drawn up, Willard's design for a darkroom was incorporated into the architectural drawings of the Manor House by architect Charles Schneider. From 1915 to 1923, Willard used this darkroom, developing glass-plate negatives and making photographic prints. *Reflections on Glass* is a visual time capsule and photographic record of Stan Hywet and various aspects of the Seiberling family life in the early twentieth century.

Securing the Shadow:
Portrait Photography in Akron, 1850-1900

The Special Collections Division, in collaboration with the Summit County Historical Society and Dr. Virginia Gunn, Professor of Family and Consumer Sciences at the University of Akron, present *Securing the Shadow: Portrait Photography in Akron, 1850-1900,* an exhibit about the business of portrait studios in Akron during the second half of the Nineteenth Century. This exhibit, featuring photographs, period clothing, and artifacts from the collections of Dr. Gunn and the Historical Society,

may be viewed in the Special Collections Division from November through January.

Between the years 1850 and 1900, Akron was home to more than 80 photography studios. During that time, local residents had their choice of studios where they could preserve images of their families, or "secure the shadow" as a popular advertising slogan suggested.

The rise in popularity of this new industry was, to a great degree, a result of advances in photographic technology. By the late 1840s, improved optics and more effective chemicals permitted greater output by the photographers. These advances helped to make photography more affordable, allowing even those of the middle class to preserve their family's image for posterity.

Photography studios in Akron came and went at a rapid rate. Little was needed to establish a studio. With a minimum of technical training, some equipment, and access to a loft or studio with good light, one could be in business. Because so many studios existed, competition was high. Most studios in Akron existed for less than five years. Others, such as Snook, Battels, and Peck, became well-established and lasted for many years.

Most of Akron's early studios were situated close to the City's central business district near Howard and Market Streets, usually on an upper floor. As technology changed, these photographic entrepreneurs offered the latest in photographic formats including daguerreotypes, ambrotypes, and tintypes, as well as photographs on paper.

A Late Night Success!

We'd like to thank all of you who joined us for our Late Night at the Library event last month on October 13th. With the gracious help of volunteers from the Summit County Chapter of OGS and everyone's friendly cooperation, we hosted nearly 80 researchers. We really enjoy providing these special opportunities for our genealogists and hope that you find them just as much fun as we do. Thank you everyone!

Local History Events

Holiday Window Displays On Main Street - At The Polsky Building & The O'Neil's Building
Downtown Akron Partnership
November 23-December 31
Remember the fantastic holiday window displays at O'Neil's and Polsky's? They're back! These historic displays include a storybook display, Peter Pan, the Wizard of Oz, the Prince and Ice Princess, Santas of Christmas past, a train display, and Raggedy Ann.

History of Barberton's Post Office
Barberton Public Library – Local History Room
Wednesday, December 13, 2 pm
Focusing on the history of Barberton's postal service, this program will include details and photographs of the buildings used as the post office and some of the early postmasters. Bring your friends and family and join us for this free program and slide show.

Holidays with the Mustills
Cascade Locks Park Association
Saturday, December 16, 12 - 3 pm
Come join us for festive cookies and beverages and get some of your Holiday shopping done at the same time. We have books, cds, dvds, and more! There will be authors on hand to sign their work, and who knows, maybe Fred and Emma Mustill will stop by for a visit!

From Rembrandt to Rockwell: Artists' Portraits of Their Families
Stan Hywet, Akron-Summit County Public Library (ASCPL), Akron Art Museum
Wednesday, January 17, 7 pm
Presented by Kathryn Wat, Curator of Exhibitions, in conjunction with the *Reflections on Glass Exhibit,* this program demonstrates how family portraits help create and define family histories. Join us at the Main Library in Meeting Room 2AB.

New Members Reception
Cleveland Restoration Society
Wednesday, January 24, 5 - 7 pm
New and prospective members are invited to the Society's headquarters, the Sarah Benedict House, to tour the restored mansion, meet the staff and the

Board of Trustees, learn about programs and events, and network with other new members.

Genealogy Events

Getting Started in Family History
Special Collections
Saturday, January 13, 10 -11:30 am
This orientation includes an overview of the genealogical resources available at the Akron-Summit County Public Library, suggestions for getting started, and tips for organizing your research. Held at the Main Library in downtown Akron, the session is free but sign up is requred. For more information or to sign up, contact Special Collections at 330.643.9030 or speccollections@akronlibrary.org.

Researching the Community of our Ancestors
Hudson Genealogical Study Group
Saturday, January 13, 9:30 am
Presented by Judith Centina, this program is held at the Hudson Library. For more information, please contact the Hudson Library & Historical Society at 330.653.6658.

Be a Family History Detective
Stan Hywet, ASCPL, Akron Art Museum
Saturday, January 13, 2 pm
How well do you know your family? You might be surprised at what you can learn with a little family history research. Kids in grades 3 and up can bring an adult family member and learn how to do an oral history interview and make a family tree. Join us in the Children's Library for this program.

Book Reports & Brick Walls
Hudson Genealogical Study Group
Saturday, January 20, 9:30 am
Presented by the Club Officers, this program is held in the Hudson Library. For more information, please contact the Hudson Library & Historical Society at 33.653.6658.

Finding Your Family in the US Census
Special Collections
Saturday, January 27, 10 - 11:30 am
United States census records are rich sources of genealogical information. Join us to learn more about using these valuable records in your family research. As the emphasis will be on using electronic resources, basic computer skills are recommended. The class will be held in the computer lab at Main Library and sign up is required. For more information or to sign up, contact Special Collections at 330.643.9030 or speccollections@akronlibrary.org.

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Getting Started in Family History
Special Collections
Saturday, March 10, 10 - 11:30 am
This orientation includes an overview of the genealogical resources available at the Akron-Summit County Public Library, suggestions for getting started, and tips for organizing your research. Held at the Main Library in downtown Akron, the session is free but sign up is requred. For more information or to sign up, contact Special Collections at 330.643.9030 or speccollections@akronlibrary.org.

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Black Roots: Tracing Your Family Tree
A Day with Tony Burroughs
Special Collections
Saturday, March 31, 9:30 - 4 pm
Internationally-known genealogist, lecturer, and author, Tony Burroughs will present a workshop on African American genealogy. Join us in Main Library's auditorium to learn about the unique challenges of black family history research, as well as how to use genealogical resources such as funeral home records, obituaries, cemetery records, and the census. For more information or to sign up, contact Special Collections at 330.643.9030 or speccollections@akronlibrary.org.

We would like to thank the following for their generous donations:

Akron Press Club for three copies of *50th Anniversary, Summit County Sports Hall of Fame, 1957-2006.*

Herb Branden for nineteen slides of downtown Akron.

C. D. Butte for CD: *History of 603 Quartermaster Graves Registration Company.*

Robert Capanna for *History of Kingsland Ancestors of Karen Ann Kingsland Capanna.*

Elizabeth Connelly for manuscripts and documents belonging to her father, former *Akron Beacon Journal* editor, Hal Fry.

Mary Craddock for five photographs.

Rosemarie Foord for miscellaneous maps, periodicals, and microfilm.

Jeff Iula for three photographs of the Soap Box Derby, media guides and programs for the 2006 Soap Box Derby, and bound newsclippings from the 1964-65 Akron Spelling Bee.

Steve McClain for CD *One Shoe on the Highway* by Steve McClain.

Rachel Roberts for 2 copies of CD *Ripe 'n Juicy* by Rachel Roberts.

James Titmas for *The Search for Captain Abraham Miller* by James Titmas.

Patricia Yeager for five photographs of the 1925 Akron Centennial Parade taken by Robert and Evelyn Wolff.

New to the Collection

Alabama
Freedmen & Colored marriage records, 1865-1890 Sumter Co.
Pioneers & residents of west central Alabama prior to the Civil War

Georgia
Bibb County, Georgia marriage records, 1825-1857
De Kalb County, Georgia marriage records, 1842-56
History of Bartow Co, Georgia
History of Athens & Clarke Counties
Marriages of Chatham County, GA, Vol. II: 1852-77
Register of deaths in Savannah, GA
Third or 1820 Land lottery of GA

Kentucky
Barren's Black roots: a history of the Black families in Barren County, KY (4 vols.)

Louisiana
The first families of Louisiana: an index
Louisiana marriage contracts, 1725-1758

Maine
The pioneers of New France in New England

Maryland
Land record, Liber A 1777-1779 Washington Co.
Land record, Liber B 1779-1781 Washington Co.
Land records, Liber C 1782-1784 Washington Co.
Second German Evangelical Lutheran Church, Baltimore City, Maryland
Life on the Potomac River
Marriages and deaths from the newspapers of Allegany &Washington Counties 1820-30
Sketches of citizens of Baltimore City & Co.

Missouri
Genealogical gleanings: 1840 & beyond, vol. 2
People of color: Black genealogical records & abstracts from Missouri sources, 2 vols.

Mississippi
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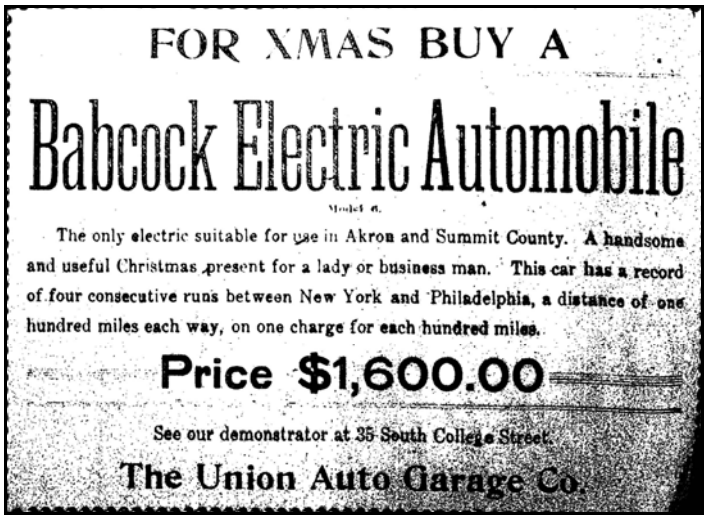
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